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P 021839Z MAR 07  
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2699  
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 6596  
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 3917  
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 7805  
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 5051  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 2284  
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 2384  
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 4452  
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 0122  
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 4925  
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 9515  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0077  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL  
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 0185  
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E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PREF](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [BL](#)  
SUBJECT: CUBAN DISSIDENT SAMARTINO MAY GO TO NORWAY

REF: JANUARY 2007 ASDARS

¶1. (U) La Paz leading daily newspaper La Razon and the Human Rights Foundation (HRF) reported on February 28 that Norway has agreed to provide asylum to expelled Cuban dissident Amauris Samartino (aka Amauri Sanmartino) who is currently residing in Colombia. According to the HRF, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) informed Samartino of Norway's offer on February 23. Samartino was granted legal resident (not refugee) status in Bolivia in October 2001. The GOB arrested Samartino for anti-GOB activities on December 24, 2006 and eventually deported him to Colombia on January 9 after UNHCR intervened in the case. On February 2, the Bolivian Constitutional Tribunal ruled the GOB's arrest, detention and deportation of Samartino illegal, opening up the possibility that he could return to Bolivia. On February 3, Vice President Alvaro Garcia Linera stated that while the GOB respects the court's decision, it would not allow Samartino to return to Bolivia. To date, Samartino remains in Colombia. Samartino's wife, Normina Chavez, states he may travel to Norway in the next few weeks.  
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